

63-7898

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Connie:

With the onset of the fall season I am reminded of a telephone conversation I had with Mr. Jett last January concerning the desirability of reducing the speed limit on the George Washington Memorial Parkway to 35 miles per hour in hazardous weather when driving may be dangerous because of snow or ice. I mentioned to Mr. Jett at that time that we would be glad to post signs at our gates warning drivers of the reduced speed limit if you should decide that such action is feasible. If you have plans to impose special controls during hazardous weather, I would appreciate your advising me in order that we may be suitably prepared before the bad weather begins.

In this general connection, I am increasingly concerned with safety conditions along the Parkway when the weather is clear and dry. It has been my impression that traffic on the Parkway has been increasing steadily, perhaps as a result of continuing progress toward completion of the circumferential highway and the opening of additional sections to traffic. As the volume of traffic grows it becomes relatively more important that the posted speed limits be scrupulously observed, and I wonder if it might not be worthwhile for the Park Police to increase their traffic patrols during the rush hours as a protective measure against the hazards of those few drivers who seem habitually to disregard the speed limits. In addition, it occurs to me that safety during the rush hours would be improved if it were possible to arrange for the mowing and other maintenance operations along the Parkway to be scheduled insofar as possible during the middle part of the day.

We have, from time to time, issued reminders to our employees encouraging them to be observant of speed limits and the normal rules of safe and careful driving. If you have suggestions as to other actions we might take, or if there is any way in which we can cooperate with the Park Service to protect the safety of drivers along the Parkway, I would appreciate receiving your suggestions.

Sincerely,

L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

Mr. S. A. DeStefano
President, Arnold Lines
Washington, Virginia & Maryland Coach Co., Inc.
Box 229
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Mr. DeStefano:

During recent weeks there have been several accidents along the George Washington Memorial Parkway between our headquarters building and the Key Bridge access road. To the best of my knowledge, all of these have involved private passenger vehicles and none of your buses have been affected. I am increasingly concerned, however, by the growth in the traffic volume along the Parkway and by the failure of a few drivers to be properly observant of the speed limit, creating safety hazards for your drivers as well as the increasing volume of automobile traffic.

While I am not aware of any specific instances in which your bus drivers have exceeded the speed limit, it occurs to me that you might consider it appropriate, in the interest of public safety, to caution them against speeding and to be especially careful during the rush hours when the volume of traffic and the number of reckless drivers are at their peak.

Sincerely,

L. E. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

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HEADQUARTERS EMPLOYEE BULLETIN

WARNING TO DRIVERS

1. On 2 May 1963 an Employee Bulletin was issued urging all employees to observe the speed limits along the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Route 123 as well as along the roadways within the headquarters grounds. The number of accidents which have occurred recently indicates that some of our employees are not properly attentive to the speed limits and the rules of safe and courteous driving.

2. You are once again reminded that the speed limit on the George Washington Memorial Parkway is 50 miles per hour, and the speed limit on Route 123 is posted as 35 to 45 miles per hour, with the lower limit effective near the entrance to the headquarters site. The speed limit within the headquarters grounds is 20 miles per hour.

3. The volume of traffic in this area, particularly along the Parkway, is increasing steadily as the circumferential highway is extended and additional sections are opened. The additional traffic flow during the rush hour makes it imperative that all drivers adhere strictly to posted speed limits. Once inside the headquarters grounds, there are pedestrians as well as other drivers who deserve the courtesy of careful and attentive driving.

4. Employees are reminded also that the use of headquarters parking areas is approaching full capacity. There are very few vacant spaces, and it is essential that parking rules be observed if all authorized drivers are to be accommodated. The present system of warning notices has been sufficient in most cases to bring about correction of violations. However, reports are increasing of unauthorized parking in lane and reserved spaces by individuals who have no permit or who are assigned to other areas. A number of chronic violators have been identified who apparently will not be impressed by the usual administrative reminders. If this disregard for the rules continues it will be necessary to adopt more restrictive measures, including issuance of parking tickets to violators.

DISTRIBUTION: ALL EMPLOYEES

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L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

17 OCT 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

SUBJECT : Safe Driving

As you know, there have been a number of automobile accidents along the George Washington Memorial Parkway during recent weeks, and the Director's concern with traffic safety has been voiced at several Senior Staff Meetings. I am aware that our chauffeurs have some of the finest safety records in the Washington area, but I believe a word of caution against becoming careless is appropriate. The traffic along the Parkway, particularly during the rush hour, seems to be growing steadily and it becomes increasingly important for every driver to be scrupulously attentive to the posted speed limit as well as all of the normal rules of safe driving.

Signed

L. L. White
Deputy Director
(support)

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: Executive Director		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
	HQ	
REMARKS:		
RE: Speed Limit on the Parkway		
<i>ERL - Reading Bel</i>		
FROM: Deputy Director (Support)		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION
	HQ	

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-B
WHICH MAY BE USED.

GPO : 1957—O-439445 (47)